



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release – Friday March 17, 2017

50th Anniversary Canada Games Flag Arrives in Lethbridge for Canada 150

Lethbridge – The Canada Games flag arrived in Lethbridge on March 17th as part of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Canada Games, Canada's largest multi-sport and cultural event for youth. As a Canada 150 Signature project, a unique 50th anniversary Canada Games flag is travelling across Canada celebrating each of the past Host Communities. Its ultimate destination will be the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg on July 28th.

"The Canada Games Flag Relay is an exciting tradition that re-ignites the passion of the Canada Games in past Host Communities and spreads the spirit of the Games throughout the nation," said Tom Quinn, Chairman of the Canada Games Council. "We couldn't be more thrilled to see the flag trek across the country celebrating all that each past host community has built for the Canada Games property."

Today, the Canada Games Flag Relay and Community Celebration was in Lethbridge, featuring the raising of the Canada Games flag at City Hall, words from the mayor and guests, and the Canada's Sport Hall of Fame traveling exhibit, which will remain on display at City Hall until March 22nd.

City of Lethbridge Mayor, Chris Spearman said "Twelve different communities in southern Alberta hosted various sports during the 1975 Games. The Canada Games experience inspired many to carry the Games volunteer spirit forward to make hosting other major sporting events in Lethbridge and southern Alberta possible. We remain extremely grateful to everyone who volunteered in 1975."

In 1975, Lethbridge hosted the Games and our community has benefitted from its legacies ever since. While the primary reasons for continuing to hold the Canada Games are to contribute to sport and athlete development across the country, the Canada Games are also about community development and pride. In fact, the Canada Games include economic, social and cultural benefits that impact the host region and province as well as the participants, volunteers and spectators who experience the Games. In its 50 year history, the Canada Games has cumulatively invested over \$250 million in capital projects across the country.

The 2017 Canada Games Flag Relay officially launched on February 11th in Quebec City, host of the very first Canada Games in 1967. This edition of the Flag Relay is the first time that each past Host Community will be hosting an event to commemorate their Games. For more information about when the Canada Games were held in Lethbridge, visit: canadagames.ca/host-societies. To find out where the flag will travel next, visit: canadagames.ca/events-calendar

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About the Canada Games

Held once every two years, alternating between winter and summer, the Canada Games represent the highest level of national competition for up-and-coming Canadian athletes.

The Games have been hosted in every province at least once since their inception in Quebec City during Canada's Centennial in 1967. The Games are proud of their contribution to Canada's sport development system in addition to their lasting legacy of sport facilities, community pride and national unity.

The 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg are the 50th anniversary of the Canada Games and will be held from July 28th to August 13th, 2017. The 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer will be held from February 15th to March 3rd, 2019.

The organization of the Canada Games is made possible thanks to the contribution and support of the Government of Canada, provincial/territorial governments, host municipalities and the Canada Games Council.